For the Medical Profession only

TRADE MARK **'TANNAFAX'** BRAND

TANNIC ACID JELLY

Tannic Acid, with 0·5 per cent. Phenol, in a water-soluble base

The Modern Treatment of Burns and Scalds

Reduced facsimile

Always Ready for Immediate Application

Printed in England

THE MODERN TREATMENT OF BURNS AND SCALDS

THE chief danger following severe burns and scalds is the production of secondary shock due to the absorption of breakdown products of protein from the injured tissue. It is also claimed that changes in the concentration of the blood, and bacterial infection, particularly by hæmolytic streptococci, may play a part in the production of symptoms, but the primary cause of the acute toxæmia appears to be the absorption of toxins from the burned area. These products produce a histamine-like action on the circulation.

DEGREES OF BURNS AND SCALDS

The different degrees of burns and scalds may conveniently be classified as follows:—(1) The skin is scorched and congested superficially; it appears reddened, but there is no tissue destruction. Frequent repetition of the scorching causes a chronic thickening and pigmentation of the skin. (2) In this degree blistering results from the raising of the cuticle from the cutis vera; such blisters may coagulate in situ or burst and expose the red and tender skin underneath. (3) In this degree there is destruction of the cuticle and the superficial parts of the true skin, with consequent exposure of the interpapillary processes. Extreme pain and collapse usually accompany burns of this degree. (4) The whole thickness of the skin and parts of the subcutaneous tissues are destroyed. (5) The destruction

TREATMENT OF BURNS

(1) Burns on hand and wrist.

(2) 'TANNAFAX' applied—black coagulum formed.

(3) Coagulum removed—healthy new skin revealed.

also involves the muscles. (6) There is charring or disorganisation of the whole limb.

Owing to the destruction of nerve endings in the last three cases, collapse is often surprisingly small, but serious contractions may result from the scarring consequent on healing. The aim in the treatment of burns and scalds, except in those of trivial nature, is to relieve the symptoms by stopping the absorption of those bodies which cause collapse.

ACTION OF TANNIC ACID

When tannic acid is applied, the protein in the injured tissue is precipitated and a firm coagulum is formed over the surface. The absorption of toxin produced by protein breakdown is thus prevented, and a slough, greatly resistant to septic action, is provided. When the coagulum separates, it leaves a healed epidermis in superficial burns and a clean granulating surface in deeper ones. It is advisable, whenever tannic acid preparations are being used for burns or scalds, not to apply oil or grease, as both are difficult to remove.

Although infection of the burned area is rare, it may occur, particularly in association with the formation of sloughs in deep burns. Late blistering, early separation, cracking or softening of the coagulum may also predispose to infection, but so long as marked systemic signs of infection do not appear, the coagulum may be left to separate by itself. It should be noted, however, that a layer of inspissated serum between the coagulum and granulation tissue is not necessarily a sign of

severe infection. If, eventually, the condition becomes so severe that removal of the coagulum is indicated, separated portions may be cut away and the adherent coagulum softened by the application of hypertonic saline dressings, such as 2 per cent. or 3 per cent. sodium chloride solution. Removal under an anæsthetic is rarely necessary.

ADVANTAGES OF 'TANNAFAX'

'TANNAFAX' BRAND TANNIC ACID JELLY is neither oily nor greasy and has a water-soluble, antiseptic base, which can easily be removed if necessary. After the formation of the coagulum, treatment must follow the same lines as those employed with ordinary tannic acid, using only hypertonic saline dressings. 'TANNAFAX' is of particular value in cases of serious burns which will require hospital treatment, as its removal can be effected without the pain which is associated with oily or greasy preparations. Whenever possible all blistered, loose and devitalised epidermis should be removed, as even loosened epidermis, still in position, is impermeable to tannic acid. 'TANNAFAX,' owing to the fact that it is ready for immediate application, is superior to solutions. To be of value, solutions of tannic acid must be freshly prepared; want of facilities at the time may cause unnecessary and harmful delay. In the treatment of face-burns, especially when extensive, 'TANNAFAX' may be used with advantage in place of the usual tannic acid spray, which, on account of the spreading, often endangers the eyes.

For application of 'Tannafax,' see page 6

APPLICATION OF 'TANNAFAX'

For burns and scalds, 'TANNAFAX' should be applied lightly and allowed to dry before bandaging; but, whenever possible, it is advisable to dispense with the bandaging altogether. In the case of second degree burns, the sooner the blistered skin is removed the more rapidly will the 'TANNAFAX' effect healing. When healing is complete, usually in 10 to 14 days, the black coagulum readily peels off, leaving a clean, normal surface. In all cases the dressing should be repeated until the burnt surface has ceased to be moist and red and the coagulum has become black and fully formed.

'TANNAFAX' may be used to treat first, second and third degree burns and scalds, and, by virtue of its non-greasy consistency, is of particular value when repeated dressings are necessary.

Preparation

TRADE MARK 'TANNAFAX' BRAND TANNIC ACID JELLY
[SER. DIST. B. W. & Co.]

(Tannic acid, with 0·5 per cent. Phenol, in a water-soluble base)

DIRECTION.—*For Burns or Scalds.*—Apply lightly, allow to dry and bandage loosely. Do not apply oil or grease.

Prices in London: Collapsible tubes of 20 *gm.* (¾ *oz. approx.)* (0/8) *and* 4 *oz.* (113 *gm. approx.)* (2/1) *per tube*

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